(b) if so, the action taken to start a direct passenger flight to China to boost bilateral ties and tourism?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) China Eastern Airlines, the designated airlines of China, has commenced twice weekly services to Delhi, one each from Beijing and Shanghai, effective 28th March, 2002.

IA flights on unviable routes

2372. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has been plying its services on several routes which are unviable;

(b) if so, the details thereof and losses suffered on such routes during the last three years;

(c) whether Government's policies have been causing losses to the Indian Airlines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to revise its policies to make it profitable?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) The details of services operated by Indian Airlines and its wholly owned subsidiary of Alliance Air that did not meet cash cost for the last three years are as follows:—

Year	No. of services	Loss per Annum (Rs. in crores)
1998-1999	43	23.74
1999-2000	26	15.46
2000-2001	53	78.22

(c) to (e) Ministry of Civil Aviation has laid down Route Disbursal Guidelines *vide* its order dated 1st March, 1994, with a

view to achieving better regulation of air transport services and taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions in the country. Subject to compliance of these guidelines, it is upto the airlines to provide air services to specific destinations depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability.

Indian Airlines is, however, deploying nearly 16.2 percent of capacity against 10 percent mandated in Route Disbursal Guidelines for Category-II routes as a part of their social commitment. Government has at present no plans to review the existing guidelines. However, the suggestions made by Indian Airlines to improve its financial performance, are considered from time to time by the Government and necessary action is taken keeping in view the social obligations and other constraints.

Accident of an aircraft at Palam Airport

2373. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an aircraft of Indian Airlines rammed into the parameter wall of the Palam Airport as reported in all the newspapers on 9th March, 2002;

(b) if so, the exact loss suffered to the aircraft as a result thereof;

(c) whether Government have fixed any responsibility in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to avoid such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) On the night of 7/8 March, 2002, an Indian Airlines Airbus A-300 aircraft, VT-EFW, after routine maintenance check, while being taxied from the engine run-up bay to the domestic opertional area had a low speed impact with airport security wall.